

REMARKS

The Examiner's action dated April 19, 200, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

The indication of allowability of claims 3-7 and 11-14 is noted with appreciation. However, since it is believed that claim 1, as amended, and claim 10, which depends from claim 1, distinguish patentably over the applied reference, the allowable claims have been retained in dependent form.

In response to the rejection presented in Sections 3 and 4 of the Action, claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 2. Claim 2 recites a first space. Therefore, the recitation of claim 5 of "a second space" should be considered to be definite. In claims 11, 13 and 14, the term "third" has been deleted. Since the claims on which these claims are based did not recite any space, the recitation of "a space" should be considered to be definite.

Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 8-10 and 15 as anticipated by Yeung is respectfully traversed. Claim 1, from which claim 10 depends, has been amended to clarify that the support device that constitutes a first reflector is in the form of a substantially flat plate.

In the explanation of the rejection, the claimed support device constituting a first reflector is asserted to correspond to component 6 illustrated in the applied reference. Such a comparison is believed to be unjustified. According to the reference disclosure, elements 6 are mica holding elements mounted to the toaster frame. It appears from the patent drawing that these elements are narrow strips located at the upper and lower edges of heating elements 12. There is no disclosure in the reference that holding element 6 are reflectors. In view of their size, shape and locations, there is no basis for the view that they inherently function as reflectors. For this reason alone, claim 1, as originally filed, cannot properly be considered to be anticipated by the applied reference.

The rejection is further based on the view that the claimed second reflector corresponds to a plate 11 disclosed in the applied reference. This plate is simply identified as an insulation plate. Here again, there is no disclosure that the plates 11 are constructed to be reflectors.

However, in order to advance matters, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the support device constituting a first reflector is in the form of a substantially flat plate. Clear support for this added limitation will be found in the specification, in paragraph [0039]. This recitation clearly

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defines a structure that is different from the element 6 disclosed in the applied reference.

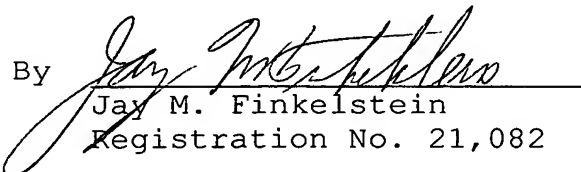
New claims 16 and 17 add the further limitation that the support device is interposed between the at least one mica sheet and the plate. This feature is also not disclosed in the applied reference. This spatial relationship is disclosed in paragraph [0038] of the specification.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn, that the claims 1-17 be allowed and that the application be found in allowable condition.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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